

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
MAYOR C.W. SKIDMORE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Saraland and all of southwest Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor C.W. Skidmore and pay tribute to his memory.

Mayor Skidmore, known to his many friends as "Bill," was a native of Russellville and longtime resident of Saraland. He served as a city councilman from 1957, when Saraland was incorporated, until 1960. In 1964, he was elected mayor and served two terms.

Bill set out to be the mayor of Saraland with the intention of changing the reputation the city had received after the murder of its first mayor. During his time serving as mayor, Bill also focused on commercial and residential growth, as well as the development of city services.

When Saraland celebrated its 50th anniversary, Mayor Skidmore was honored. The city also named a football park on Norton Avenue in his honor. In addition to a lifetime of public service, Mayor Skidmore owned and operated Skidmore Oil Company and Skidmore Construction. He also served on the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a beloved friend to many throughout southwest Alabama. Mayor Skidmore will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Took; his children, Billy and his wife Sheila, Mary and her husband Bruce, and Tammie and her husband Rick; his 13 grandchildren; and his great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

HONORING JOHN BRENNEMAN

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize John Brennenman, an outstanding naturalist and public servant from the 12th Congressional District of Florida. John has worked tirelessly for the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and Imperial Polk County for 30 years. His devotion to improving local water quality and educating lakefront homeowners is evident through his continuing commitment to serve the public with excellence and integrity.

John's academic achievements have shaped his career in water management. He earned both his B.S. in Agriculture and his Masters of Agricultural Management and Resource Development from the University of Florida. He is also a certified instructor for the Florida Master Naturalist Program Wetland, Coastal and Upland Modules. With this certification, he actively assists rural pond owners in becoming good stewards of their water property. He has taught them how to manage surface waters and fisheries to enhance the aesthetics of their pond, while maintaining sound water quality.

John has an obvious passion for educating the public and is responsible for developing a program to educate lakefront residents entitled, "Living at the Lake." This primer has been used extensively for Florida's lakefront homeowners and by others interested in central Florida's lake resources. John also coordinates the Polk County Extension Water School. This program is designed to provide local officials with valuable information to prepare them for addressing important water issues and policies.

John has also molded young minds and shaped lives through his work as a 4-H Agent. For many years, John chaperoned trips to 4-H Congress and 4-H Camps where he taught courses, led fishing expeditions and counseled young people on character and values. His own example is what provides the best lesson for a life of service, love, and faith. I say this as one who benefited from his mentoring.

John's experience and influence reaches beyond Polk County lines. For ten years, John worked to educate businesses and residents through the natural resource education program as a multi-county agent. Additionally, John has worked with volunteers associated with the University of Florida's LAKEWATCH program which was designed to monitor water quality in local lakes. As a result of John's efforts, data was collected from local lakes on a monthly basis and entered into an extensive database used for profiling the local waterscape.

John and his wife, Terri, have been married for almost 36 years. They have one daughter, Emily, and three sons Jacob, Adam, and Joseph. When not tending to his work or bragging about his grandkids, John is a Sunday school teacher and Deacon at the First Baptist Church at the Mall.

GLOBAL WARMING PETITION
SIGNED BY 31,478 SCIENTISTS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, before voting on the "cap-and-trade" legislation, my colleagues should consider the views expressed in the following petition that has been signed by 31,478 American scientists:

"We urge the United States government to reject the global warming agreement that was written in Kyoto, Japan in December, 1997, and any other similar proposals. The proposed limits on greenhouse gases would harm the environment, hinder the advance of science and technology, and damage the health and welfare of mankind.

There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth."

Circulated through the mail by a distinguished group of American physical scientists

and supported by a definitive review of the peer-reviewed scientific literature, this may be the strongest and most widely supported statement on this subject that has been made by the scientific community. A state-by-state listing of the signers, which include 9,029 men and women with PhD degrees, a listing of their academic specialties, and a peer-reviewed summary of the science on this subject are available at www.petitionproject.org.

The peer-reviewed summary, "Environmental Effects of Increased Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide" by A. B. Robinson, N. E. Robinson, and W. Soon includes 132 references to the scientific literature and was circulated with the petition.

Signers of this petition include 3,803 with specific training in atmospheric, earth, and environmental sciences. All 31,478 of the signers have the necessary training in physics, chemistry, and mathematics to understand and evaluate the scientific data relevant to the human-caused global warming hypothesis and to the effects of human activities upon environmental quality.

In a letter circulated with this petition, Frederick Seitz—past President of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, President Emeritus of Rockefeller University, and recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from 32 universities throughout the world—wrote:

"The United States is very close to adopting an international agreement that would ration the use of energy and of technologies that depend upon coal, oil, and natural gas and some other organic compounds.

This treaty is, in our opinion, based upon flawed ideas. Research data on climate change do not show that human use of hydrocarbons is harmful. To the contrary, there is good evidence that increased atmospheric carbon dioxide is environmentally helpful.

The proposed agreement we have very negative effects upon the technology of nations throughout the world; especially those that are currently attempting to lift from poverty and provide opportunities to the over 4 billion people in technologically underdeveloped countries.

It is especially important for America to hear from its citizens who have the training necessary to evaluate the relevant data and offer sound advice."

We urge you to sign and return the enclosed petition card. If you would like more cards for use by your colleagues, these will be sent."

Madam Speaker, at a time when our nation is faced with a severe shortage of domestically produced energy and a serious economic contraction; we should be reducing the taxation and regulation that plagues our energy-producing industries.

Yet, we will soon be considering so-called "cap and trade" legislation that would increase the taxation and regulation of our energy industries. "Cap and trade" will do at least as much, if not more, damage to the economy as the treaty referred by Professor Seitz! This legislation is being supported by the claims of "global warming" and "climate change" advocates—claims that, as demonstrated by the 31,477 signatures to Professor Seitz' petition, many American scientists believe is disproved by extensive experimental and observational work.

It is time that we look beyond those few who seek increased taxation and increased